

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The Oldroyd
Lincoln Memorial Collection



LOCATED IN THE HOUSE IN WHICH LINCOLN DIED

Washington, D. C.

1903



The Oldroyd Lincoln Memorial Collection

IF ONE born in the time of Shakespeare had so absorbed vitality and time as to have gathered in one memorial collection three thousand articles pertaining to the poet, he would have rightfully won the gratitude of all coming nations. This work of love is what Osborn H. Oldroyd has done for Abraham Lincoln. For forty years he has so devoted himself to the great personality of a man whom, alas, he never saw, that today his collection of three thousand articles is one of the most interesting and valuable ever collected in behalf of a human being. The two hundred and fifty funeral sermons, the nearly seventy pieces of music, the one thousand volumes of Lincoln—biographies and works relating to slavery and the war—these alone would honor the public library. The autograph letters and pictures would give joy to any mere autograph collector. The over two hundred medals, the nearly three hundred portraits, including the earliest known, the original busts, etc., would be the pride of any museum. But all these are in one grand collection—all included in the vast array of interesting material. For nearly twenty years now they have been open to the public eye, having been in the Lincoln Homestead in Springfield, Ill., ten years before being removed to their present quarters in the City of Washington, 516 Tenth street N. W. They always have been under the loving protection of Mr. Oldroyd and his family. Visitors, who have his personal guidance through the collection, are privileged to hear many an interesting story or fact concerning a relic.

ELIZABETH PORTER GOULD,
Boston Evening Transcript, Feb. 18, 1898.

FORTY years ago Osborn H. Oldroyd, then a boy, became fired with enthusiasm for Abraham Lincoln. He began collecting mementoes of his idol, little thinking at the time that they would ever be of value to any but himself. As years passed, the passion grew upon him, and he now possesses over three thousand relics of the martyred hero. When I entered the house where Lincoln breathed his last, the quiet, modest man who ushered us in and showed us the relics did not impress me as the owner of the collection until the word "my" inadvertently slipped out. Then, with a start, I turned to him in wonder and said, "Are you Mr. Oldroyd?"

"Yes," he said.

"It is a great thing," I replied, "to see these mementoes of Lincoln, but to me you are far more interesting than your relics. To find a man in this day and generation who has devoted his life to a beautiful and sacred ideal is an object lesson, indeed."

And it certainly was a treat to enter a holy of holies like that house, sauctified by the thousands of reminders of our hero, and further sanctified by the beautiful, unselfish devotion and love of a man so pure, so unworldly, that he had no thought for anything but the memory of the man whom, alas! he had never even seen.

Mr. Oldroyd has waited patiently for Congress to make an appropriation which should make this collection the property of the Nation.

Every loyal American citizen ought to stand by that man in his noble effort to perpetuate Lincoln's memory.

Let us not see one slender pair of shoulders bend and break under the burden which would not exist did each American do his duty!—*Ellen Eames De Graff in the Sunday Tribune, Evansville, Ind.*

Woman's Relief Corps Resolutions

The following resolutions were presented by the Department of California and Nevada to the Twenty-first National Convention of the Woman's Relief Corps, which met in San Francisco August 19, 1903, and adopted by a unanimous vote of the Convention :

WHEREAS, The sacred mementoes of our great and martyred President, Abraham Lincoln, are of inestimable value, not only to the people of our Nation and its yet unborn generations, but to all civilized people as a lesson in highest patriotism ; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Twenty-first National Convention of the Woman's Relief Corps petition the Government of the United States that it shall purchase and hold all such mementoes of the life and national service of Abraham Lincoln known as the "Oldroyd Lincoln Memorial Collection."



From Springfield, Ill., Morning Monitor, February 8, 1889.

The Lincoln Homestead

A Word in Regard to It—Captain and Mrs. Oldroyd's Reception

NEXT Tuesday evening there will be a reception given to the members of the legislature and state officials, at the Lincoln homestead, by Captain and Mrs. Oldroyd. The occasion is the 80th anniversary of the birth of Honest Abraham Lincoln. The home of Lincoln is an object of curiosity to thousands of people, who annually go to see the reminders of a man who followed the finger of destiny until accomplishing by one stroke of his pen that which

hundreds of men and women had sighed for, prayed for, and stood the jibes and jeers of the same masses who, almost in the twinkling of an eye, had been transformed from fiends of persecution for the slave drivers to soldiers of freedom. Capt. O. H. Oldroyd's museum of the Lincoln memorials is the most complete and interesting extant. Such devotion to the memory of a mortal has seldom, if ever, been witnessed in the history of America. Impressed with the exalted character of Abraham Lincoln, and at that age in his teens when friendships made are the most lasting, he commenced when a mere boy to collect every memento he could buy or secure in an honest way, pertaining to the campaign of 1860. His success in this effort led him to "go backward on the stream of time," and by the most indefatigable energy and industry to collect mementoes of his "beau ideal" of a man, before the nation was fully impressed with Lincoln's great character and his rapid approaching fame and immortality. The private soldier—the mere boy—realizing the magnitude of the events in which he himself was an humble factor, gratified his patient, untiring desire to secure every article of interest to which he instinctively attached a proper value, at the time when the people almost as a whole regarded them as useless and valueless. Today he could cash them in any metropolitan city at a fabulous price; but with that patriotic devotion to his great standard of perfection in character, his type of manhood, his exemplar of the race, he preferred to erect in the home of the martyr to freedom a monument which would speak to millions yet unborn the praises of Lincoln in the humble home from which, with the stride of a Colossus, he stepped to the presidency, and from thence to the pinnacle of immortal fame. Such devotion to the memory of a mortal has no parallel in history, and with such a guardian of these priceless relics to the state, every

visitor to Lincoln's home is fully impressed with the fact that the state, for a mere bagatelle, has possessed to the people of Illinois one of the grandest object lessons of the age. May the shadow of Captain Oldroyd never grow less, and the people of this state fully appreciate his services toward keeping ever green the name of Lincoln.

The house in which President Lincoln died is located at 516 Tenth street N. W., between E and F streets, and directly opposite Ford's Theater, where President Lincoln was shot by J. Wilkes Booth in the private box a few minutes past ten o'clock on the night of April 14, 1865, and almost immediately carried across the street to the house in which he died (the home of Wm. Petersen) at twenty-two minutes past seven the following morning. At nine o'clock the body was taken to the White House, where it remained in the East room until the funeral sermon was preached, by Rev. P. D. Gurley, on the 19th, after which the body was removed to the Capitol, and there remained, exposed to the view of many thousand persons, until the 21st. On that day the journey to his tomb commenced, arriving at Springfield, Ill., on the 3d day of May, and on the 4th it was placed in a temporary vault, there to await the building of a final resting place by a grateful and loving people.



This Collection Contains

15 books and miscellaneous articles once the property of or associated with him.

13 pieces of furniture from the Lincoln Homestead, Springfield, Ill.

11 autograph letters and documents

62 pictures illustrating his early life and homes.

70 badges, caricatures, and flags relating to the Lincoln campaign in 1860.

27 scenes in his life, illustrating his journey from Springfield to be inaugurated President in 1861.

35 caricatures of his administration.

145 pictures illustrating the assassination and funeral of the President.

37 photographs of Booth, his flight, capture, death, and burial.

The spur worn by Booth which caught in the flag draped before the President's box.

The silk flag which caught Booth's spur as he leaped from the box to the stage.

1,000 biographies of Lincoln, histories of slavery, the Civil War, and works relating to the martyred President.

200 magazines containing editorials upon the death, and various articles upon his administration, etc.

325 newspapers, dating from 1843 to 1865, containing his speeches, elections, war papers, death, and burial.

255 funeral sermons, addresses, and eulogies delivered upon his death.

227 original autographic tributes, reminiscences, etc., from prominent men upon his life and character.

66 pieces of sheet music published at the time of his death.

65 photographs and illustrations of Ford's Theater, the conspirators, their trial and execution.

253 portraits, consisting of original photographs, steel engravings, lithographs, etc.

83 engravings of the Lincoln family, groups of the President and Cabinet, allegorical pictures, etc.

24 United States fractional currency issued during the Lincoln administration.

27 busts, statuettes, life masks, etc.

24 medallions.

171 political and memorial medals struck in honor of the President.

An original black-locust rail split by Abraham Lincoln in 1830, with an affidavit by John Hanks, attested to by Governor Oglesby, dating back to 1860, five years before the President's death.

The office chair used by him in his law office at Springfield when elected President, in 1860, and in which he sat when he formed his first Cabinet and drafted his first inaugural address before leaving for Washington.

The last cook stove used by Mrs. Lincoln in the home-stead at Springfield.

The family cradle in which the Lincoln children were rocked.

An original reward bill offering \$100,000 for the capture of Booth, Herold, and Surratt.

Family Bible out of which his mother read to him when he was a very young boy. The Bible is 100 years old, and on the cover of this Bible Lincoln wrote his name when not over nine years of age.

A large book would be required to describe the many articles found in this vast collection ; it must be visited in order to be fully appreciated. An admission of twenty-five cents is charged in order to defray the expenses of preserving the house until such time as an appropriation is made by the Government to throw the house open to the public.



What is to Become of this Collection?

What is to become of the celebrated Oldroyd collection of Lincoln relics, collected and owned by Osborn H. Oldroyd, and now located in the house 516 Tenth street northwest, Washington, D. C., where the immortal Lincoln breathed his last?

This is a question of much importance, not alone to the Government and Mr. Oldroyd, but to the public at large, and must be settled one way or the other in the near future, as Mr. Oldroyd was a soldier in the War of the Rebellion and very naturally is getting into the "sear and yellow leaf," and before he dies would like to see his life's labor of love and admiration for the great patriot, statesman, and martyr so placed as to become a perpetual memorial to that great man.

Several plans have been suggested, all having in view ultimate ownership of this vast, unique, and wonderfully interesting collection by the Government. Mr. Oldroyd has had several private offers for the collection, all, however, contemplating its removal from this to some other city, all of which he has so far rejected, adhering rigidly to the strong hope that it may be retained in this city amongst the more stirring scenes of Mr. Lincoln's illustrious career, and where he laid down his life upon his country's altar in behalf of the Union and human liberty.

Several propositions have been discussed, the first of which contemplates the purchase of the collection and having it remain where it now is, properly superintended by some suitable person designated by Congress.

The second proposition also contemplates its purchase by the Government, and the placing of the collection in some one of the halls of the Congressional Library. The third and last proposition is for Congress to provide for the erection in this city of a memorial building dedicated

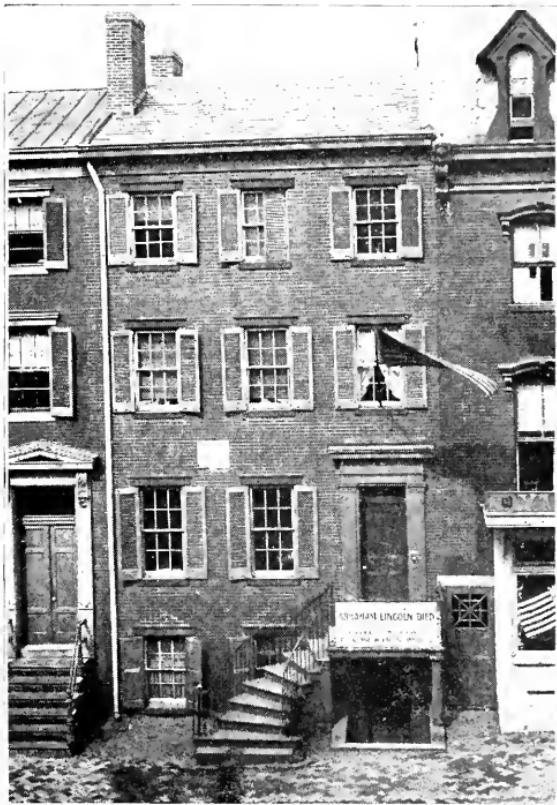
solely and entirely to the memory of the immortal Lincoln, and also of the purchase and placing therein of this justly famous historic collection.

The first proposition, that of purchase by the Government and leaving the collection where it is now located, is certainly a very excellent one, although there is a serious objection to be urged against this plan, namely, the danger of loss from fire.

The second proposition, that of placing the collection in the Congressional Library, for obvious reasons does not seem to be either practicable or feasible, unless Congress could arrange for its *permanency* in one of the largest halls.

The last proposition, that of the erection of a Lincoln Memorial Building, with suitable space for the collection and for such additions as may be made to it from time to time, appears to meet with universal approbation. No nation is so poor, and certainly not the United States, as not to be able to suitably honor its heroes, patriots, and martyrs, and Lincoln was all three ; hence, so to speak, entitled to the triple honor. Next to George Washington, his memory is most revered of any American, living or dead. It is unnecessary to encumber this article with a rehearsal of his great deeds and sacrifices in behalf of his country—all who know history are familiar with them.

There is not in this city a really respectable monument to his memory. We have them erected to most everything and everybody, but none to this great man and patriot. Let us then have something which would be both an honor to him and a credit to us as a nation. Let Congress give us this memorial building, and it will become a shrine to which all Americans visiting the Capital City of their Nation will wend their way to pay homage to the memory of him so loved, honored, and revered by us all.



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